

30.602 Materiality.

(a) In determining materiality, the CFAO shall use the criteria in 48 CFR 9903.305 (FAR Appendix).

(b) A CFAO determination of materiality—

(1) May be made before or after a general dollar magnitude proposal has been submitted, depending on the particular facts and circumstances; and

(2) Shall be based on adequate documentation.

(c) When the CFAO determines the cost impact is immaterial, the CFAO shall—

(1) Make no contract adjustments and conclude the cost impact process;

(2) Document the rationale for the determination; and

(3) In the case of noncompliance issues, inform the contractor that—

(i) The noncompliance should be corrected; and

(ii) If the noncompliance is not corrected, the Government reserves the right to make appropriate contract adjustments should the cost impact become material in the future.

(d) For required, unilateral, and desirable changes, and CAS noncompliances, when the amount involved is material, the CFAO shall adjust the contract or use another suitable method (*see* 30.606).

30.603 Changes to disclosed or established cost accounting practices.**30.603-1 Required changes.**

(a) *General.* Offerors shall state whether or not the award of a contract would require a change to an established cost accounting practice affecting existing contracts and subcontracts (*see* 52.230-1). The contracting officer shall notify the CFAO if the offeror states that a change in cost accounting practice would be required.

(b) *CFAO responsibilities.* Prior to making an equitable adjustment under the applicable paragraph(s) that address a required change at 52.230-2, Cost Accounting Standards; 52.230-3, Disclosure and Consistency of Cost Accounting Practices; or 52.230-5, Cost Accounting Standards—yEducational Institution, the CFAO shall determine that—

(1) The cost accounting practice change is required to comply with a CAS, or a modification or interpretation thereof, that subsequently became applicable to one or more contracts or subcontracts; or

(2) The former cost accounting practice was in compliance with applicable CAS and the change is necessary to remain in compliance.

(c) *Notice and proposal preparation.* (1) When the award of a contract would require a change to an established cost accounting practice, the provision at 52.230-7, Proposal Disclosure—Cost Accounting Practice Changes, requires the offeror to—

(i) Prepare the contract pricing proposal in response to the solicitation using the changed cost accounting practice for the period of performance for which the practice will be used; and

(ii) Submit a description of the changed cost accounting practice to the contracting officer and the CFAO as pricing support for the proposal.

(2) When a change is required to remain in compliance (for reasons other than a contract award) or to comply with a new or modified standard, the clause at 52.230-6, Administration of Cost Accounting Standards, requires the contractor to—

(i) Submit a description of the change to the CFAO not less than 60 days (or other mutually agreeable date) before implementation of the change; and

(ii) Submit rationale to support any contractor written statement that the cost impact of the change is immaterial.

(d) *Equitable adjustments for new or modified standards.* (1) Required changes made to comply with new or modified standards may require equitable adjustments, but only to those contracts awarded before the effective date of the new or modified standard (*see* 52.230-2, 52.230-3, or 52.230-5).

(2) When a contractor elects to implement a required change to comply with a new or modified standard prior to the applicability date of the standard, the CFAO shall administer the change as a unilateral change (*see* 30.603-2). Contractors shall not receive an equitable adjustment that will result in increased costs in the aggregate

to the Government prior to the applicability date unless the CFAO determines that the unilateral change is a desirable change.

30.603-2 Unilateral and desirable changes.

(a) *Unilateral changes.* (1) The contractor may unilaterally change its disclosed or established cost accounting practices, but the Government shall not pay any increased cost, in the aggregate, as a result of the unilateral change.

(2) Prior to making any contract price or cost adjustments under the applicable paragraph(s) addressing a unilateral change at 52.230-2, 52.230-3, or 52.230-5, the CFAO shall determine that—

(i) The contemplated contract price or cost adjustments will protect the Government from the payment of the estimated increased costs, in the aggregate; and

(ii) The net effect of the contemplated adjustments will not result in the recovery of more than the increased costs to the Government, in the aggregate.

(b) *Desirable changes.* (1) Prior to taking action under the applicable paragraph(s) addressing a desirable change at 52.230-2, 52.230-3, or 52.230-5, the CFAO shall determine the change is a desirable change and not detrimental to the interests of the Government.

(2) Until the CFAO has determined a change to a cost accounting practice is a desirable change, the change is a unilateral change.

(3) Some factors to consider in determining if a change is desirable include, but are not limited to, whether—

(i) The contractor must change the cost accounting practices it uses for Government contract and subcontract costing purposes to remain in compliance with the provisions of Part 31;

(ii) The contractor is initiating management actions directly associated with the change that will result in cost savings for segments with CAS-covered contracts and subcontracts over a period for which forward pricing rates are developed or 5 years, whichever is shorter, and the cost savings are reflected in the forward pricing rates; and

(iii) Funds are available if the determination would necessitate an upward adjustment of contract cost or price.

(c) *Notice and proposal preparation.* (1) When a contractor makes a unilateral change, the clause at 52.230-6, Administration of Cost Accounting Standards, requires the contractor to—

(i) Submit a description of the change to the CFAO not less than 60 days (or other mutually agreeable date) before implementation of the change; and

(ii) Submit rationale to support any contractor written statement that the cost impact of the change is immaterial.

(2) If a contractor implements the change in cost accounting practice without submitting the notice as required in paragraph (c)(1) of this subsection, the CFAO may determine the change a failure to follow a cost accounting practice consistently and process it as a noncompliance in accordance with 30.605.

(d) *Retroactive changes.* (1) If a contractor requests that a unilateral change be retroactive, the contractor shall submit supporting rationale.

(2) The CFAO shall promptly evaluate the contractor's request and shall, as soon as practical, notify the contractor in writing whether the request is or is not approved.

(3) The CFAO shall not approve a date for the retroactive change that is before the beginning of the contractor's fiscal year in which the request is made.

(e) *Contractor accounting changes due to external restructuring activities.* The requirements for contract price and cost adjustments do not apply to compliant cost accounting practice changes that are directly associated with external restructuring activities that are subject to and meet the requirements of 10 U.S.C. 2325. However, the disclosure requirements in 52.230-6(b) shall be followed.

30.604 Processing changes to disclosed or established cost accounting practices.

(a) *Scope.* This section applies to required, unilateral, and desirable changes in cost accounting practices.